MARKED-UP AMENDED CLAIMS 6, 8, 9, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 and 19

6. (Amended) Method according to [any one of claims 1 to 5] claim 1, which comprises aligning of the two fibers in parallel alignment without crossing or twisting said fibers with each other.

8. (Amended) Method according to [any one of claims 1 to 7] claim 1, wherein the fibers are fused using a heat source which is hotter than the heat source used for elongation.

9. (Amended) Method according to [any one of claims 1 to 8] claim 1, wherein by adjusting the degree of fusion between the fibers, a desired shift in the polarization match point is produced.

12. (Amended) Method according to claim 9, [10 or 11], wherein by reducing the degree of fusion, a larger polarization match point spacing is realized.

13. (Amended) Method according to [any one of claims 1 to 12] claim 1, wherein, when elongating the fused fibers, the heating is carried out by a flame on a torch which can be brushed along the length of the coupling zone to stimulate a larger flame, and by varying the brush width during the elongation, the profile shape and thus the polarization and wavelength properties are modified as desired.

14. (Amended) Method according to [any one of claims 1 to 13] claim 1, wherein the two single-mode fibers are identical.

15. (Amended) Method according to [any one of claims 1 to 13] claim 1, wherein the two single-mode fibers are dissimilar.

16. (Amended) Method according to [anyone of claims 1 to 15] claim 1, wherein more than two fibers are used to produce multiple wavelength couplers.

17. (Amended) Method according to [any one of claims 1 to 16] claim 1, wherein the obtained coupler is secured to a suitable substrate and packaged.

19. (Amended) A multiplexing or demultiplexing single mode fiber optic coupler having a narrow channel spacing of a minimum of 0.4 nm, produced in accordance with [any one of claims 1 to 16] claim 1.

The present preliminary amendment is made to eliminate multiple dependencies of original claims 6, 8, 9, 12, 13, 14, 15,16, 17 and 19.

Respectfully submitted,

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AMENDED CLAIMS 6, 8, 9, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 and 19

a1

6. (Amended) Method according to claim 1, which comprises aligning of the two fibers in parallel alignment without crossing or twisting said fibers with each other.

a2

8. (Amended) Method according to claim 1, wherein the fibers are fused using a heat source which is hotter than the heat source used for elongation.

9. (Amended) Method according to claim 1, wherein by adjusting the degree of fusion between the fibers, a desired shift in the polarization match point is produced.

a3

12. (Amended) Method according to claim 9, wherein by reducing the degree of fusion, a larger polarization match point spacing is realized.

13. (Amended) Method according to claim 1, wherein, when elongating the fused fibers, the heating is carried out by a flame on a torch which can be brushed along the length of the coupling zone to stimulate a larger flame, and by varying the brush width during the elongation, the profile shape and thus the polarization and wavelength properties are modified as desired.

14. (Amended) Method according to claim 1, wherein the two single-mode fibers are identical.

15. (Amended) Method according to claim 1, wherein the two single-mode fibers are dissimilar.

16. (Amended) Method according to claim 1, wherein more than two fibers are used to produce multiple wavelength couplers.

17. (Amended) Method according to claim 1, wherein the obtained coupler is secured to a suitable substrate and packaged.

a4

19. (Amended) A multiplexing or demultiplexing single mode fiber optic coupler having a narrow channel spacing of a minimum of 0.4 nm, produced in accordance with claim 1.